



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## 2003 Florida Plant Disease Management Guide: Sweet Basil<sup>1</sup>

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### Leaf Spot (*Colletotrichum* sp.)

**Symptoms:** Dark spots form on leaves and the dead tissue within leaf spots may drop out to leave holes. The disease can cause defoliation, tip dieback, stem lesions, and sometimes loss of entire plants. Spores are water-splashed from diseased tissue.

**Cultural Controls:** Sow seeds in sterile containers in sterile soil. Since wet conditions favor disease development, reduce leaf wetness periods by reducing humidity and increase plant spacing to increase air movement. Avoid overhead irrigation. Remove disease plants to reduce inoculum levels.

### Bacterial Leaf Spot (*Pseudomonas cichorii*)

**Symptoms:** Spots on leaves are water-soaked, dark, and may be both angular and delineated by small veins in the leaves or show as irregular leaf spots. A wet stem rot may occur. Bacterium is reported to be seed-borne. The disease is favored by wet, humid conditions and is disseminated by splashing water or by handling and spreading infected tissue.

**Cultural Controls:** Decrease moisture on plants with low humidity and sufficient plant spacing for adequate movement to reduce leaf wetness periods. Use disease-free seed and transplants. Remove diseased leaves and plants to reduce inoculum levels. Avoid overhead irrigation. Use clean, sterile equipment and do not move between infected and healthy plants.

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